**Statement of Explanation**

You must discuss the choices you have made as a writer [authorial choices] for the following:

**FORM LANGUAGE AUDIENCE PURPOSE CONTEXT**

**Examples NOTE: The bolded words are the prompts the pieces responded to.**

**Written explanation 1**

In this piece I set out to explore an idea that we’ve discussed in class as we have been thinking about *The imaginative landscape*. It is an idea that first emerged in our discussions as we watched the opening sequence of *Ten Canoes* (a supplementary text chosen by our teacher for *The imaginative landscape*). When viewing that film it becomes clear that the landscape we inhabit is an integral part of our consciousness, and thus of our way of seeing and experiencing our world. The camera is held high over the landscape in the opening sequence, moving across it so that the features beneath appear like a dot painting. Our perspective is altered. This idea, that **if we want to understand another’s view of the world, we must do all we can to step into their consciousness**, helped us to think about *Fly Away Peter*, and several of Frost’s poems. In this writing, I am using this idea to help me reflect on a past experience in a new way.My piece is based on my retelling of a personal experience. In the anecdote, I tried to enliven the anecdote by using dialogue and interesting verbs as Malouf does in *Fly Away Peter* (‘scooted us away’, ‘climbed’, ‘leaped’). As the events in my anecdote become more tense, I used shorter sentences to enhance the sense of tension (‘There were no winners … The tree stayed. The cracks were fixed. The court costs were astronomical.’) The piece is framed by a short discussion of *Mending Wall* as my introduction, and a reflection on the central meaning that connects my experience with two of the texts we studied, as my conclusion. 280 words

**Written explanation**

I chose to write an essay that would enable me to explore **the difficulty of maintaining one’s sense of self and of one’s reality in the world in which one lives**. I was questioning what happens to those whose belief in themselves, and in the reality of their own ‘world view’, is undermined by others. Who are able to withstand this assault on self? When are people most vulnerable to self doubt – perhaps in times of social/physical dislocation and in marriage? Why might it be women, rather than men? Do time and place affect one’s ability to firm up one’s sense of self? What happens also when one doubts oneself? My reading of *A Streetcar named Desire* and *The Shark Net* was suggesting to me that one’s sense of who one is, is important to one’s emotional well being and is constantly being threatened. Often those who are in most need of self examination are firmly attached to their version of who they are and never allow self doubt.

Both texts are looking at families who have been dislocated and this may explain in part why there might be a vulnerability in some characters that reveals a crack enabling others to cast doubt on who they are. Drewe’s father and Stanley both had a very clear concept of who they were and where they fitted in their world, whereas the women seemed to be forced to reinvent themselves and this led to unhappiness. Stella is prepared to sacrifice her sister’s sanity to preserve her own world. Dot does very much the same, sacrificing herself to be what others want her to be, only rarely showing that there is another self, no less real, but mostly hidden. I wanted to explore this idea.

I was also aware from reading both texts that self doubt can be equally corrosive. I have chosen to argue my case by closely examining the characters in the two texts. Are we sympathetic to Blanche or to Stella? How does an audience respond to Stanley? I wanted my audience, which would include readers from18 to 40, to think carefully about their view of themselves and how that view might impinge on others’ views of themselves. I wanted readers to think carefully about some of the sacrifices that we might be requiring from others so that they fit into our concept of who they should be. Those reading the essay who may have felt sympathy for Stanley or Royce Drewe might think about their effects on the women and children in their lives with a little more understanding. Overall, however, I wanted readers to reflect on who they are and to have the confidence to analyse and to protect that important sense of themselves, valuing the rights of others to do so too. 467 words